

## MUSICAL.

## A Grand Operatic Combination at the Academy of Music.

On next Monday evening, January 6th, the musical season in this city will culminate in an event which has seldom been equaled and never excelled in this country.

The Academy of Music will be opened for a season of two weeks only, but into these

weeks there will be crowded a variety of musical talent without precedent. The combination will consist of Max Maretzek's Italian Operatic Troupe, Lafayette Harrison's Concert and Oratorio Company, and Leonard Grover's German Opera Troupe. Each of these alone would be certain of a great and well-deserved success, and their grouping together into one company will be productive of a decided sensation.

Maretzek's Troupe embraces Mme. Gama, Mlle. Parepa-Rosa, Miss Minnie A. Hauck, Signora Antonietta Ronconi, Signora Natali-Testa, Signora Fredricka Ricciardi, and Signors Pancani, Baraglia, Ronconi, Bellini, Antonucci, Testa, Barilli, Banti, and Ricciardi. M. Amati du Brul, in Leonard Grover's German troupe are the great bass Joseph Hermanns and the charming tenor Theodore Habelmann. Harrison's Concert and Oratorio Troupe embraces Mme. Parepa-Rosa and Messrs. George Simpson and J. R. Thomas. This list of the most accomplished and popular singers now on the continent will ensure a brilliant and enthusiastic season.

The repertoire for the twelve nights and one matinee includes the following operas:—Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette*, Petrella's *Ornais de Ventes*, Rossini's *Othello*, Ricci's *Don Bucefalo*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Meyerbeer's *L'Africaine*, Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, Rossini's *Il Barbiere*, and Roberto or *Crispino*, in Italian; Gounod's *Faust* in German; and Rossini's oratorio of *Stabat Mater*.

For this grand round of performances, including thirteen different entertainments, the season tickets have been placed at the very low price of twelve dollars, while tickets for six performances on the alternate nights will be sold at six dollars. The sale of the season tickets will commence on Wednesday morning, and we trust that the opportunity will not be neglected.

## DRAMATIC NOTES.

THE HANLONS will remain at the Academy of Music during the remainder of the week. Their entertainment is the most novel and interesting that has been afforded us in many years, and a repetition of the crowded and enthusiastic houses of last week may be expected.

AT THE ARCH STREET THEATRE this evening, Colonel Fitzgerald's new drama, *Light at Last* will be presented for the first time. Great expectations have been aroused by the announcement, and the public will soon be relieved of its suspense.

## GENERAL CUSTER'S DEFENSE.

The Sandusky (Ohio) Register of the 28th contains a four-column letter from Brevet Major-General Custer, of cavalry fame, in which he examines and refutes the charges on which he was recently suspended from service for one year. Its material portions are as follows:—

There was but one specification which even implies cruelty on my part, and upon this the evidence of the medical officer, Dr. Conner, the only witness examined on this point, was clearly and decidedly against such an assertion. His testimony even proved the contrary, viz.:—that I had been extremely solicitous regarding the welfare of the men whose treatment was to be proved "cruel." Dr. Conner also testified that the substitution of a government wagon for an ambulance was made upon his request and recommendation for the reason, as given by him at the time, that the ambulance was unserviceable, worn out, and unfit for the purpose for which it was intended. (said ambulance, for the foregoing reasons, having since been condemned.) Upon this specification, the only one involving or implying cruelty, the finding of the court is one which is regarded as equivalent to acquittal. As follows:—The court finds me "guilty" of directing the men to be placed in a wagon and "of the facts as charged, except the words," and here is excepted every word of the specification which could have made my conduct appear cruel. And the court adds to this finding, "and attaches no criminality thereto."

The next allegation to be noticed is as follows:—

"It is asserted that on one occasion, when on a scout, when horse and man had become fatigued, some soldiers dropped to the rear, as is the case in all long marches, and that the commanding officer ordered them to desert, and sent back an officer with instructions to shoot the tired men."

The circumstances which probably furnished the foundation of this slanderous item were these:—My command, after resting one day and two nights on the Platte river, set out at 6 o'clock in the morning, and in six hours made fifteen miles, being two and a half miles per hour, or one mile less than the average march per hour of cavalry, when moving with the utmost deliberation. As this march of fifteen miles, under the circumstances first related, was the only marching performed before the occurrences which gave rise to the falsehood published in the journal before mentioned, it will readily be seen that the "long marches" and "tired soldiers" had only an existence in the imagination but not in the actual march of the *Times* editor. After completing the march of fifteen miles, the entire command was halted for rest and refreshment, and the horses were unsaddled and grazed. This continued until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when it was determined to march some ten miles further to a point where we should find a good camp and abundance of water, it being impossible to find the necessary amount of the latter at a less distance. "Boots and saddles" was sounded preparatory to marching. This order, which was issued by surprise, as they supposed it to be the intention to remain where we were until the following morning, and a scheme had been organized among them to desert in large numbers during the night, returned by our trail to the settlements along the Platte, and from there make their way to the mining regions. My command originally numbered about three hundred men. Of these, thirty-four had deserted the previous night. I had been informed, both by officers and reliable enlisted men, of the existence of a scheme by which the desertion of the thirty-four men was to be followed up by that of a large proportion of the remainder of the command. To frustrate this movement, as well as for the reasons first given, I determined to increase the distance between the command and the settlements, and as we were then in an Indian country, surrounded by hostile savages, I trusted the increased distance to be travelled over, and the attendant dangers, would prevent any further attempt at desertion. Soon after "Boots and Saddles" had been sounded, an officer reported to me that thirteen men of the command were then in the act of making their way as rapidly as possible in the direction of the Platte, and that no doubt they were deserting. The men could not be seen between one and two miles from camp, leaving in a rapid manner a portion of the men being mounted, the remainder on foot. All were armed, and as we afterwards learned, each man, by robbing comrades in camp, had supplied himself with double the usual allowance of ammunition. As yet no organized portion of the command was saddled, thereby preventing immediate pursuit. The deserters had evidently taken advantage of this circumstance to effect their escape, only a portion of them, however, managing to secure possession of their horses. The first horses saddled were those of the officers and a portion of the guard. To the first who reported mounted, instructions were given to pursue the deserters. Then, viewed beyond view, and bring them back as all hazards, the order given being so worded that the officers who were to execute it were

directed and authorized to proceed to any extremity, even to the taking of life, if necessary to the proper discharge of their duty. I have been accused of making long and fatiguing marches. If during the expedition of which I had command any such marches were made, I can justify my conduct in this respect by a telegram from Lieutenant-General Sherman directed to me, in which this sentence occurs:—"If you march your horses to death no fault will be found with you." The march for which I was tried was proven both by witnesses for the prosecution and defense, to have been slow—the average being less than three miles and a half per hour, which, every cavalryman knows to be a slow and deliberate rate of marching. No testimony was offered tending in the slightest degree to controvert this fact; and yet the Court declared me guilty of having executed a rapid march. Other portions of the finding were equally inconsistent and unsupported by evidence.

MEMBER JAY COOKER & Co. inform us that neither Senator Sherman, nor any other public functionary in or out of Congress, has now or ever had any direct or indirect interest in or connection with their firm. This corrects the statement copied in the *World* from the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.—N. Y. *World* of to-day.

—In the person of Mrs. Nancy Carter, who died at her residence in Alexandria, on Thursday, the city lost its oldest inhabitant, she being, at the time of her demise, within a few months of one hundred and fifteen years of age.

## CLOTHING.

## CHEAP, CHEAPER, CHEAPEST

## CLOTHING IN THE CITY.

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Every Garment in our Extensive Assortment LOWERED in Price to suit the times. We are determined to close out our Stock of Overcoats and Heavy Suits before the Holidays, Very Cheap. Prices greatly reduced on Ordered Work.

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Instruction given on the Machine gratuitously to all purchasers.

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